

MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2019
1st Floor Conference Room - West, City Hall, 900 Quay St.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Todd Holschbach, Vice Chairman Nic Levendusky, Alderman Lee Kummer, Al Schema

Staff Present: Dan Koski, Chad Scheinoha, Alvin Rehme

Excused: Glenn Pfeffer

Others: Barry Pankratz

Call meeting to order

T. Holschbach called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Approval of the minutes from September 10, 2019

Ald. Kummer made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2019 meeting. A. Schema seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public input session

Barry Pankratz, a North 12th Street resident, stated that the workers did a good job cleaning up the area by North Water and North 12th Streets.

Report on tree maintenance since last meeting

62 locations had tree work done since Sept. 26th

47 trees removed (including 20 removed from gravel pit)

50 trees trimmed

1 after-hour callout (dead tree on railroad property that fell onto Woodlawn Dr.)

7 loads of firewood

1 sale to Krueger Lumber of trees from Lincoln Park (where new Lights in Lincoln Park building erected)

200 tree plantings (135 trees planted on Quay St. by coal pile plus 54 along Waldo Blvd.)

2 tree removal permits

0 planting permits

119 trimming requests

166 removal requests

Not many ash trees were removed in summer, because that is when the bug is active. About 50 to 75 ash trees will be removed in early 2020. Parks staff will remove about half and the other half that are in wires, etc. will be contracted out. A list will be compiled and put out for bid. In 2019, Stantec removed nine ash trees at Lincoln Park and Citizen Park that were used in the Little Manitowoc River Project.

Update on the forestry fund

The current balance in the fund is \$8,112.

Urban forestry grant opportunities

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was been applied for which could have been up to \$30,000 for planting trees; however, the City of Manitowoc did not win the award. An ATC grant was also applied for which could be up to \$5,000 for planting trees. There is also a Canadian National Railroad grant application due in December that could generate up to \$25,000.

City of Manitowoc staff are in the process of closing out a Wisconsin Urban Forestry Grant for EAB infected trees. Once the current grant is closed out, the City will be eligible to apply for another \$25,000 grant in 2020.

Revisions to Tree Maintenance & Removal Policy

Staff will set up a meeting in winter.

Tree ordinance violations over the street & sidewalk

Staff will set up a meeting in winter.

Addition of the Tree Planting Plan into the Street Tree Planting Policy

Staff has a rough draft that they want to review, but they are not at a point where they want to adopt the policy. They will send it out to the commission prior to the next meeting.

Revision of the Street Tree Planting Permit to a Street Tree Planting/Treatment Permit

Staff is considering adding wording on the permit for people interested in treating their terrace trees for the Emerald Ash Borer in order to track the information. T. Holschbach questioned if there is any evidence that people actually treated the trees and are not just saying that they will treat it in order to prevent the tree from being removed. Ald. Kummer said that people should have receipts and provide evidence before the permit is issued. A. Rehme is concerned that the chemicals meet the City's standard, plus if the tree is too far gone, then the chemicals will not be effective. There is one chemical that is recommended for treatment. A. Rehme will contact the DNR to see how other cities are dealing with this.

Ideas for Arbor Day

The Commission members liked the idea of possibly having the event at the library again, plus there is money in the 2020 budget for downtown improvements. The Parks Division also requested additional monies for planting trees in 2020. C. Scheinoha will give an update at the next meeting regarding the amount.

B. Pankratz suggested doing something at Woodland Dunes or the coal pile since some trees were recently planted there.

A suggestion was made by A. Schema to plant some trees in the grassy area near the grain elevator east of the library or on the terrace area. Community Development staff may have some plans for planting trees in this area. A. Rehme had worked with Community Development in the past to develop a suggested tree planting list for the downtown area.

T. Holschbach suggested contacting Woodland Dunes to be the presenter. They could talk about the Restore the Shore project, for example, and the theme could be native species planting, because kids would understand that.

Meeting schedule for 2020

A schedule of the proposed meeting dates was reviewed. The February 11th meeting will be held on February 18th instead.

Adjournment

A. Schema made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 p.m. N. Levendusky seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

SMSR